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THE COMMONWEALTH

E. E. HILLIARD, Editor and Proprietor. "EXCELSIOR" IS OUR MOTTO. VOL. XII. New Series--Vol. 1. SCOTLAND NECK, N. C., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1896. NO. 40. SUBSCRIPTION PRICE \$1.00.

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THE EDITOR'S LEISURE HOURS.

Points and Paragraphs of Things Present, Past and Future.

The political situation in this country now furnishes a field for some writer of the Charles Dickens type, if such can be found, to write a book that would even eclipse Dickens' "American Notes."

It is mix here and mix there; bolt here and bolt there; consolidate here and consolidate there, until there seems to be no possibility of getting to any clear understanding of what politicians propose to ask the people to do.

"Electric Typography" which Mr. Joseph Joachim Reifgraber of St. Louis claims to have invented, bids fair to become the wonder of the age and certainly will be if it should prove a success. It is an invention by means of which an editor or reporter may send an electric message to a hundred places at once. Connection may be made at the various points with Mergenthaler type-setting machines and the reporter will thus be able to supply perhaps a hundred papers with the same news at once and set the type, to boot.

The works of Charles Dickens are said to grow more and more popular all the while. More of his books were sold last year than ever before and the sales are increasing all the while. The books are not sold in such great numbers because they are cheap, but the probability is that the great demand for the books have made them cheap.

It is worth while to aspire to authorship if, indeed, there is hope of making the impression on the world that Dickens made. But it is given to only a man here and there in a century to do that.

The following news item appeared in the press of the country as sent out from Fort Smith, Ark., September 9th: "General Richard C. Gatlin died at Mount Nebo, a local mountain resort in Lenoir county, N. C., January 18, 1896. He graduated from West Point in 1832. He served in the Seminole war in Florida in 1842. He was at Fort Brown during its bombardment by the Mexicans, and was promoted to be major in the Fifth Infantry in 1861, and soon afterward was appointed brigadier-general of North Carolina troops and assigned to the coast defence at Wilmington. He was Adjutant General of North Carolina."

The railway rate war between the Seaboard Air Line and the Southern Railway Company is still unsettled. News went out from Baltimore Sept. 9th that the Seaboard Air Line has issued another schedule that applies to all first class freight at the rate of 54 cents on 100 pounds against \$1.07 formerly. The rate on sixth class freight will be 28 cents on 100 pounds against 54 cents formerly.

The Southern Railway Company and the Atlantic Coast Line have issued a tariff increasing about 50 per cent. on the freight rates to certain points in North and South Carolina.

Six million of names to one petition suggests a long scroll of various chirographies, but the Queen of England has consented to receive such a petition. The petition is against the traffic in opium and spirituous liquors. The names have been collected by the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. Miss Frances E. Willard, president of the World's Christian Temperance Union, and Lady Henry Somerset, president of the British Woman's Christian Temperance Union, head the list.

Let resolutions be passed by liquor dealers' associations, and all such influences, speak as they may, but it is a rather presumptuous attempt to defy such movements as carry in one solid column six millions of names, with a private petition by each name to Almighty God that the liquor evil may be banished from the land.

Wanted—An Idea Who can think of some simple thing to make? Write JOHN W. WARD & CO., Patent Attorneys, 100 N. 2d St., New York City.

LETTER FROM CHINA.

MANY OBSERVATIONS MADE. The Great Cities.

We arrived here at Hong Kong a few days ago from Saigon, about one o'clock in the night under four bells, after a strong passage. Our figure head was carried away by a heavy sea and our port engine was disabled. We were in this port some time on account of repairing our ship. Hong Kong is the Gibraltar of the East. It is a landlocked harbor and is large enough to hold all the combined navy vessels in the world.

It had before the war over four millions of people. This city is built on the side of a mountain and all of it can be seen plainly from the ships anchored in the harbor. The houses are built on the European plan and here is a garrison with 4,000 English soldiers. There are always a good many men-of-war anchored in the harbor. They have a large dry dock, and repair ships for all nations.

We are now at Shanghai, China. Shanghai is one of the important ports in China with three very large concessions, one French, American and English, who are under a government of their own. Old Shanghai, this China city, is surrounded by a wall and no one is allowed to enter the gate without a licensed guide and his name and number is taken and he is held responsible for your safety. There are many strange things to be seen inside the walls. The prisoners are confined in the old fashioned stocks made of wood.

They are compelled to live on charity or starve. An execution takes place nearly every day, and is well attended by every one because it is done publicly. They have the Jim-reek-shade-man who pulls or carries you around the city in something like a top buggy but it is smaller and has only two wheels. Every one who visits the old city in Shanghai takes a lot of pennies along with them to give to the lepers. There are lots of missionaries who visit the old city teaching the poor Chinamen. You can go almost anywhere in the old city and see the lepers sitting on the streets.

Shanghai is well supplied with amusements of all kinds. There are several large Chinese theatres in this city and a well drilled militia is kept up in the foreign concessions to which every able-bodied man belongs. The American trade is very large and you can see American ships in the harbor at all times of the year. They bring oil to this country and carry tea, coffee, spices, coconuts, bananas, and rice back to America. While in old Shanghai I saw several trees that were petrified and were solid rock. I wish that every one could visit this country and see its wonders.

I have seen two hundred dead Chinamen at one time floating down the Yangtze-Kiang river. That was during the China and Japan war. We will leave in a few days for Amoy, China. C. T. CURRIE.

Prevention Of Sleeplessness.

Young Peoples' Leader. Among devices found to control insomnia, the Medical Register mentions the following: The sound of water dropping slowly and steadily into a pan occupies and quiets the brain. This is the principle of which we are told to count sheep going over a fence, and do any sort of automatic thinking, if such an expression be permissible. A former victim of insomnia cured himself by keeping the eyeballs looking down. Another kept rolling them in one direction with good effect, repeating, meanwhile, a certain word or number. Long inspirations by the mouth and expirations by the nostrils, conceiving the air as currents, has been found effective. All intellectual exercises should be stopped half an hour before bedtime. A tumbler of milk, instead of the usual copious draught of water, taken during sleeplessness, will often help to overcome it.

The Ideal Panacea.

James L. Francis, Alderman, Chicago, says: "I regard Dr. King New Discovery as an Ideal Panacea for Coughs, Colds and Lung Complaints, having used it in my family for the last five years, to the exclusion of physicians' prescriptions or other preparations."

Rev. John Burgess, Keokuk, Iowa writes: "I been a Minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church for 50 years or more, and have never found anything so beneficial, or that gave me such speedy relief as Dr. King's New Discovery." Try this Ideal Cough Remedy now. Trial bottles free at E. T. Whitehead & Co.'s Drug Store.

BRYAN'S LETTER.

HE FORMALLY ACCEPTS. The Principles of Democracy.

LINCOLN, Neb., September 9.—Mr. Bryan to-day made public his letter accepting the Democratic nomination. Its full text follows:

"Hon. Stephen M. White, and the Other Members of the Notification Committee of the Democratic Party: "Gentlemen—I accept the nomination tendered by you on behalf of the Democratic party, and in so doing desire to assure you that I fully appreciate the high honor which such a nomination confers, and the grave responsibilities which accompany an election to the presidency of the United States. So deeply am I impressed with the magnitude of the power vested by the Constitution in the Executive of the nation, and with the enormous influence which he can wield for the benefit or injury of the people, that I wish to enter the office, if elected, free from any personal desire, except the desire to prove worthy of the confidence of my country."

NO SECOND TERM. "Since government exists for the protection of the rights of the people, and not for their spoliation, no expenditure of public money can be justified, unless that expenditure is necessary for the honest, economical administration of the government. In determining what appropriations are necessary, the interests of those who pay taxes should be consulted rather than the wishes of those who receive or disburse public moneys."

BOND ISSUES. "An increase in the bonded debt of the United States at this time is entirely without excuse. The issue of interest-bearing bonds within the last few years has been defended on the ground that they were necessary to secure gold with which to redeem United States notes and Treasury notes; but this necessity has been imaginary rather than real. Instead of exercising the legal right vested in the United States to redeem its bonds in either gold or silver, the Executive branch of the government has followed a precedent established by a former administration, and surrendered the option to the obligations. This administrative policy leaves the government at the mercy of those who find pecuniary profit in bond issues. The fact that the dealers in money and securities have been able to deplete or protect the Treasury according to their changing whims shows how dangerous it is to permit them to exercise a controlling influence over the Treasury Department."

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY. "Democracy knows no greed. Recognizing the right of each individual to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience, it welcomes all to a common brotherhood, and guarantees equal treatment to all no matter in what character or through what forms they commune with their Creator."

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY. "Having discussed portions of the platform at the time of its adoption, and again when its letter of notification was formally delivered, it will not be necessary at this time to touch upon all the subjects embraced in its declarations."

NECESSITY OF LAW. "Honest differences of opinion have ever existed, and ever will exist, as to the most effective means of securing domestic tranquility, but no citizen fails to recognize at all times and under all circumstances the absolute necessity for the prompt and vigorous enforcement of law and the preservation of the public peace."

"In a government like ours law is but the crystallization of the will of the people; without it the citizen is neither secure in the enjoyment of life and liberty, nor protected in the pursuit of happiness. Without obedience to law, government is impossible. The Democratic party is pledged to defend the Constitution and enforce the laws of the United States, and it is also pledged to protect and defend the dual schemes of government instituted by the founders of the republic. The name United States was happily chosen. It combines the idea of national strength with the idea of local self-government, and suggests an indissoluble union of indistructible States."

FEDERAL INTERFERENCE. "Our wise forefathers fearing the tendency toward centralization, as well as the dangers of disintegration, guard-

ed against both, and national safety, as well as domestic security, is to be found in the careful observance of the limitations which they impose. It will be noticed that while the United States guarantees to every State a republican form of government, and is empowered to protect each State against invasion, it is not authorized to interfere in the domestic affairs of any State, except upon application of the Legislature of the State, or upon the application of the Executive, when the Legislature cannot be convened. This provision rests upon the sound theory that the people of the State, acting through their legally-chosen representatives, are, because of their more intimate acquaintance with local conditions, better qualified than the President to judge of the necessity for Federal interference. Those who framed our Constitution wisely determined to make as broad an application of the principles of local self-government as circumstances would permit, and we cannot dispute the correctness of the position taken by them without expressing a distrust of the people themselves."

"The Government of the United States, when administered in the interest of all the people, is able to establish and maintain its own financial policy, not only without the aid of any opposition which the syndicates may exert. To assert that the government is dependent upon the assistance or good will of a portion of the people, or that a constitutional majority, is to assert that we have a government in form, but without vital force."

NATIONAL BANK CURRENCY. "The position taken by the platform against the issue of paper money by national banks is supported by the highest Democratic authority, as well as demanded by the interests of the people. The present attempt of the national banks to force the retirement of United States notes and Treasury notes, in order to secure a basis for a larger issue of their own notes, illustrates the danger which arises from permitting them to issue their paper as a circulating medium. The national bank note, being redeemable in lawful money, has never been better than the United States note which stands behind it, and yet the banks persistently demand that these United States notes, which draw no interest, shall give place to interest-bearing bonds, in order that the banks may collect the interest which the people now save. To empower national banks to issue circulating notes is to grant a valuable privilege to a favored class, surrender to private corporations the control over the volume of paper money, and build up a class which will claim a vested interest in the national policy. The United States notes, commonly known as greenbacks, being redeemable in either gold or silver at the option of the government, and not at the option of the holder, are safer and cheaper for the people than the national bank notes based upon interest bearing bonds."

THE MONROE DOCTRINE. "A dignified but firm maintenance of the foreign policy, first set forth by President Monroe, and reiterated by the Presidents who have succeeded him, instead of arousing hostility abroad, is the best guarantee of amicable relations with other nations. It is better

(Continued on Fourth Page.)

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